

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 2/7/50 - 11:00 A.M.

Week Ending 2/6/50

WEATHER Temperatures during the week averaged near normal, except that the east was a little colder than normal. Severe cold prevailed at the beginning of the week, but temperatures rose gradually during the week to much above normal at the close. There was no precipitation over the west and most of the central portions of the State, and only light snow in the east.

January was a month of temperature extremes and rapid changes, with average temperatures generally below normal. Precipitation was below normal over most of the State, but much of the east-central portion received more than the normal amounts. The southern border counties were particularly dry. Most of the snows were rather light, and drifted little, so the moisture went into the ground with thawing of snow, and roads and highways remained open during the month.

CROPS Wheat received considerable benefit from the snows of the past two weeks, most of which did not drift. While the moisture was inadequate, it made the dry surface a little firmer. Also, the snow protected the wheat from the low temperatures of the past week. With a few exceptions, the wheat seems to be withstanding the winter very well so far.

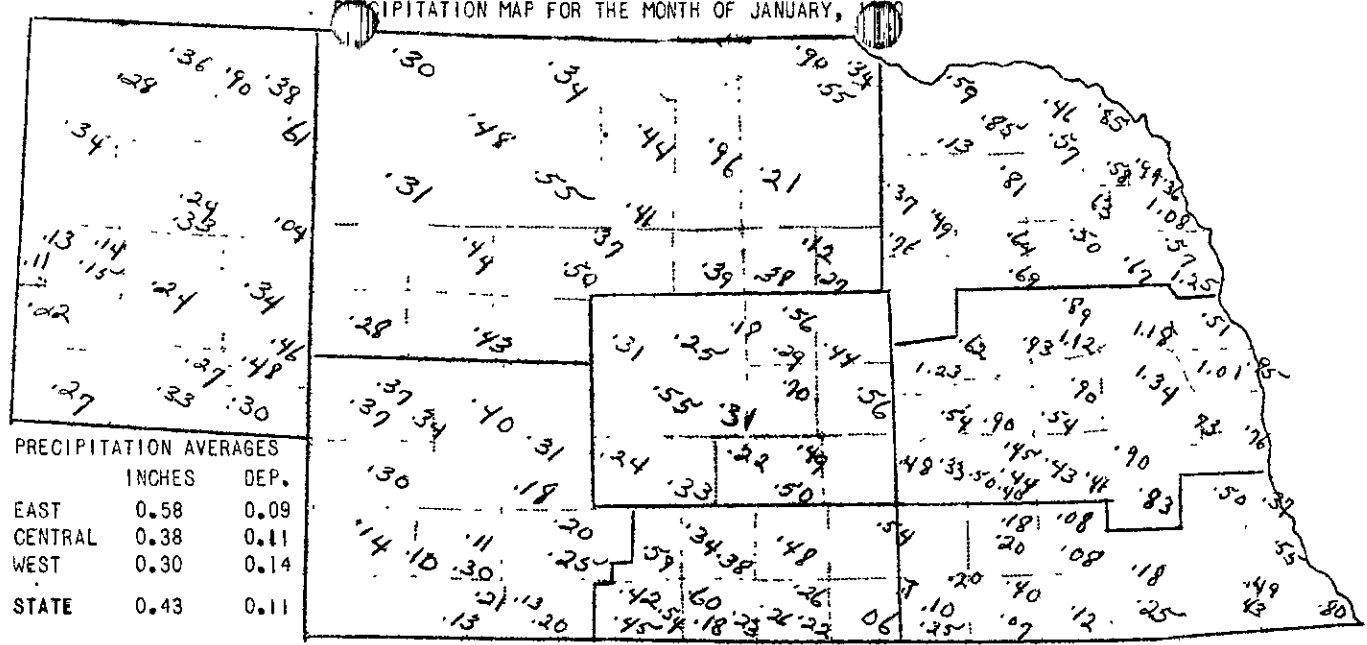
Seasonal farm work is well advanced because of the favorable weather most of the fall and winter so far. Generally, a surplus of farm labor is reported. There is considerable activity in testing seed for spring planting. There seems to be an increasing interest in farm account books and in bulletins on soils. The coming corn acreage allotments necessitate more attention to farm problems such as shifts to other crops, cornfields infested with corn rootworm, need for crop rotation to build up soil fertility, seeding of land to pasture and to leguminous crops, use of commercial fertilizer, as well as barnyard manure and plans for combating corn borer which spread over most of the corn producing areas of the State last year.

Beekeepers expressed much concern over the effects of poison sprays on bees. More attention should be given to spraying at the proper time to avoid killing bees. Bees are very important in furthering pollination of fruit and seed crops, and some experts have estimated this value at 10 to 15 times the value of the honey crop. Honey prices have been ruinously low during the past two years; furthermore, last winter was severe on bees and losses of colonies were heavy. The population of many colonies was reduced so that they did not build up last summer. A number of the smaller beekeepers are losing interest because of the low prices of honey. Furthermore, greater care should be taken in spraying at the proper time so as to avoid poisoning the bees, since they are so important in promoting pollination of flowers.

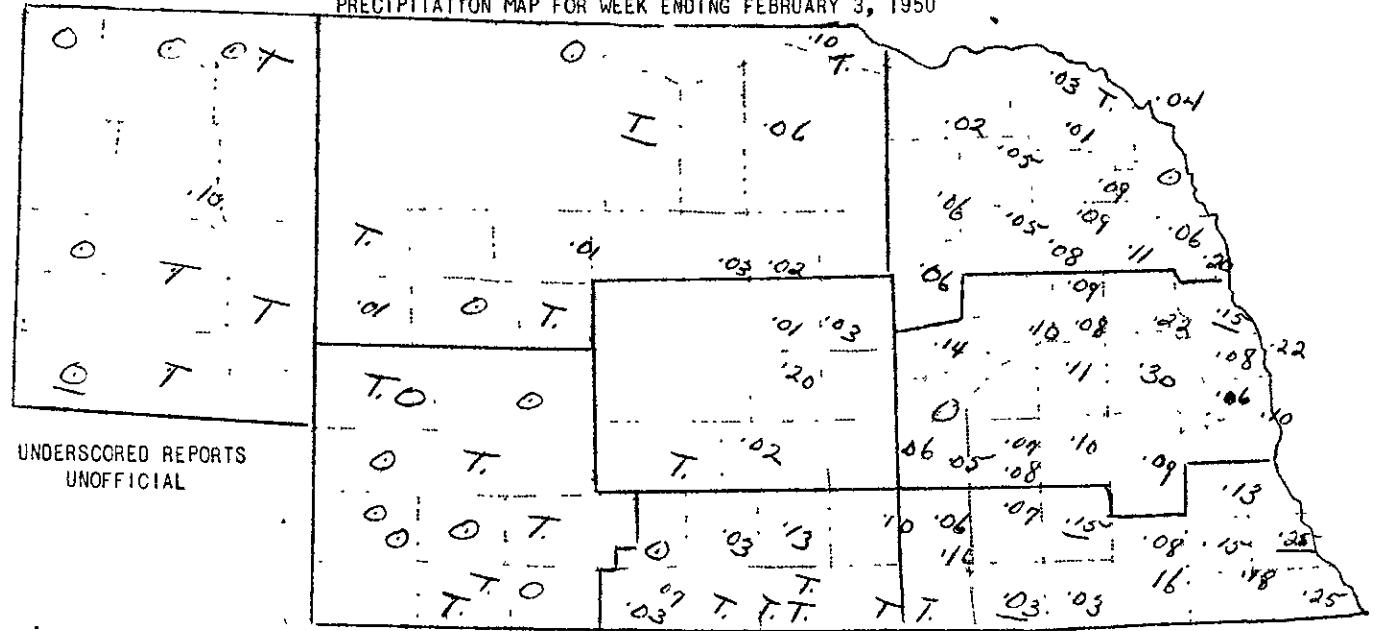
LIVESTOCK The low temperatures of the past week were not as favorable for livestock. However, livestock were in good condition to withstand lower temperatures. Feed supplies are ample. Some reports indicate difficulty in getting corn for cattle feeders because of the large percentage under loan. The low price of eggs is causing some hesitancy on the part of farmers in buying baby chicks. Prices offered for bred sows at auctions indicates increasing interest in production of pork. The demand and high prices offered for milk cows has indicated an increasing interest in dairying for some time. The snows of the past two weeks have improved the palatability of winter range.

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2-7-50

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY,



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 3, 1950



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (FOR 24 HOURS ENDING 6:30 A.M.)

		JANUARY		FEBRUARY					
		31ST		1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH
		MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN
NW	CHADRON	17	- 7	22	- 5	25	- 5	35	28
	SCOTTSBLUFF	19	- 1	25	0	29	- 4	38	29
	SIDNEY	17	- 2	32	- 6	34	- 5	32	27
N-C	BURWELL	11	-17	--	--	25	- 9	35	- 9
	VALENTINE	12	-10	15	- 1	24	- 4	30	3
NE	NORFOLK	3	-21	9	-14	15	- 8	22	0
	SIOUX CITY	4	-15	10	- 9	16	- 5	24	- 3
CEN.	GRAND ISLAND	5	-15	18	-12	25	2	27	0
E-C	LINCOLN	9	- 7	17	- 1	22	3	28	18
	OMAHA	8	-15	17	-11	21	- 3	25	10
SW	HAYES CENTER	15	1	32	0	31	4	43	10
	NORTH PLATTE	17	- 1	24	- 3	31	- 2	34	0

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 6, 1950

EASTERN DIVISION		CENTRAL DIVISION		WESTERN DIVISION	
GRAND ISLAND	.04	BURWELL	.02	CHADRON	0
LINCOLN	.06	NORTH PLATTE	0	HAYES CENTER	0
NORFOLK	.05	VALENTINE	0	SCOTTSBLUFF	0
OMAHA	.22			SIDNEY	0
SIOUX CITY	.07				